

Document No. 7  
No Change In Class. ☒  
☐ Declassified  
Class. Changed to: TS S C  
Excl. Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auth.: HR 70-8  
Date: 03 JAN 1979 By: 24

57-3136

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

3 October 1957

SUBJECT: Plans for the Construction of Constitution  
Avenue Bridge Over Potomac River and  
Impact on Agency Building Occupancy

1. On 30 September I contacted Mr. Gerald I. Sawyer in the Highway Engineer's Office of the District of Columbia to inquire into the status of the District's plans for the construction of the Potomac River bridge at Constitution Avenue. Mr. Sawyer advised that the District plans a 3 to 4 year construction schedule for the construction of the bridge, and its approaches on both sides of the river. It is estimated that the program cost would be somewhere in the order of \$14,000,000. He stated that he had intended to contact the Agency later and discuss the evacuation of some of the buildings which are located in the area of the approaches on the Washington side of the bridge. He said that they had hoped we would be able to move out of the buildings in about a year. In further conversation, Mr. Sawyer advised that Mr. Robert L. Taylor, Room 400, District Building, had plans available, and that we were welcome to look at these in order to obtain some idea of the area involved, and location of roads, etc.

STATINTL

2. On 1 October [REDACTED] and I visited Mr. Taylor and discussed with both he and Mr. Leon A. DeGast (Supervisor, Urban Highway Design Engineer), the plans which the District had for the bridge construction.

STATINTL

a. The present plans which delineate the extent of the proposed construction, will necessitate the complete evacuation of the North, possibly Central, M. Que, Riverside Stadium and also buildings 7, [REDACTED] 9, 11, 13 and 14. The only buildings which may not be affected are the Administration and East Buildings, but pedestrian and vehicular communication with these buildings will undoubtedly be affected.

In accordance with our request, a copy of the District's plan is to be made available to us in the near future.

Construction Schedule details were not discussed except that present planning is for the completion of the bridge project some time in 1961 or 1962. The scope and the schedule of the approach construction will depend upon the availability of funds, and some adjustments may be necessary. The plan being developed however, received the general approval of the National Capital Planning Commission at the last meeting of the Commission.

b. It is quite apparent that the Agency must begin to plan for space to house the components located in the buildings designated above, at least until such time as certain units move into the new Agency headquarters building.

[REDACTED]

Project Officer  
Building Planning Staff

STATINTL

Distribution:

0 - DD/S

1 - OGC

1 - D/L

1 - RE&C Div. [REDACTED]

2 - BPS

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(3 October 1957)